

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

J. D. DUNSHEE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH

HOWARD MORROW, M.D., San Francisco, President

EDWARD M. PALLETTE, M.D., Los Angeles, Vice President

GEO. H. KRESS, M.D., Los Angeles

JUNIUS B. HARRIS, M.D., Sacramento

WM. R. P. CLARK, M.D., San Francisco

GIFFORD L. SOBEY, M.D., Paso Robles

J. D. DUNSHEE, M.D., Sacramento

SAN FRANCISCO

State Office Building, McAllister and
Larkin Streets UNDERHILL 8700

SACRAMENTO

State Office Building, 10th and L Streets
Capital 2800

LOS ANGELES

State Office Building, 217 West First
Street MADISON 1271

Entered as second-class matter February 21, 1922, at the post office at Sacramento, California, under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

Vol. XIV, No. 16

May 18, 1935

GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

PLAGUE

By W. H. KELLOGG, M.D., Chief, Bureau of Laboratories, Berkeley

The persistence of plague among the ground squirrels of California is a matter of considerable concern to the health authorities not only of this, but of neighboring states. It is now 27 years since plague was first known to have become established among ground squirrels and, notwithstanding considerable effort on the part of the State of California and of the federal government, it is now not only still here, but gives every indication of increased activity and virulence and is spread over a wider area than ever before. It is true, of course, that the work has been sporadic, irregular and never prosecuted with the requisite thoroughness. This is because of limited and uncertain appropriations for the work.

It must be appreciated by all that the problem is not one simply of the prevalence of an animal disease. The plague among the ground squirrels of California is the same old plague that devastated Europe in the thirteenth century, killing 25,000,000 people; that caused the Great Plague of London in the seventeenth century, with 70,000 deaths, or a quarter of the population; that was called the Great Plague of Florence by Boccaccio in his Decameron; that is even now, forty years after its introduction there, causing a thousand deaths a week in India.

Why, then, is it epidemic among the ground squirrels and why does it not extend to the human population and is there danger of its so doing? The

answer to those questions is to be found with a fair degree of assurance in our knowledge of the bacteriology and epidemiology of plague. This disease is primarily one of rodents; rats, mice, ground squirrels, ground hogs, etc. It is only secondarily a disease of man, but when it does attack man it has epidemic properties that have established it as one of the five great plagues of the world. Spread of the infection from rats or ground squirrels to man is through the medium of the flea. The plague bacilli are in the blood of the infected animals, are taken up with the blood by the flea which, with the death of the rat or squirrel, seeks a new host. Inoculation of the new host, whether rodent or man, is easily accomplished through the bite wound.

Our safety lies in our present knowledge of the cause and mode of spread of plague. Prevention depends upon exterminating it from among rodents and in preventing it from spreading from the ground squirrel population to the rats of the cities. This work is much more expensive than the prevention of smallpox which is accomplished by vaccination and quarantine or of typhoid fever which is held in check by providing safe water and milk supplies. San Francisco, Oakland and Los Angeles can all testify to the expense of an eradication campaign when an epidemic among rats and man appears. The outbreaks of 1900-1903 and of 1907 and 1908 in San

Francisco cost that city many millions of dollars and about 200 lives, and the outbreak of pneumonic plague in Los Angeles in 1924 cost that city also many millions of dollars in addition to about 30 human lives. Expensive as is the work of eradicating plague from among the ground squirrels, it is far cheaper than coping with a human epidemic in a large city, and so long as rural squirrel plague exists there remains the possibility of an extension to the rats of the cities with the accompanying human epidemic.

The epizootic of plague among ground squirrels is showing a very disquieting activity. Whereas it had for years been known only in the coast counties of the Bay Region with an extension southward to Los Angeles, it appeared last summer in Kern and Tulare counties, where hundreds of plague squirrels were found and one human case occurred. Nor was this all. Toward the close of the season plague was discovered in Modoc County and at the present time with the appearance of the young squirrels a sharp outbreak is again in progress in Modoc County. This rapid spread of rodent plague is a serious matter and is proof positive that much more strenuous measures must be adopted if plague is not to become a permanent public health problem in this country.

Nowhere is the old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," more true than in the matter of plague prevention. The State Board of Public Health must have the requisite financial support for both laboratory and field forces and it must have the cooperation of local communities, official and unofficial, if it is successfully to cope with this very real menace to not only the health, but the commercial welfare of the state and its larger cities.

NEW HEALTH OFFICER FOR MODOC

Dr. W. E. Coppedge of Alturas has been appointed health officer of Modoc County to succeed Dr. John Stile. For many years tenure of this office has rotated between these two physicians.

INFANT MORTALITY IN JANUARY

There were 365 infant deaths recorded during January of 1935. Of these 186 were due to malformations and diseases of early infancy, 101 premature birth, and 21 due to injury at birth. There were 162 stillbirths registered during the same month and 6339 live births.

Every man's life is a fairy-tale written by God's fingers.—Hans C. Anderson.

WHAT ABOUT MALARIA?

According to reports from Ceylon, more than 30,000 deaths from malaria occurred there from November, 1934, to January, 1935. It is reported that in January alone 5468 deaths from malaria, out of a total of 7038, were in children under 14 years of age. In commenting upon this reported outbreak, an editorial in the May, 1935, issue of the *American Journal of Public Health* states:

"There is a lesson for us, however, in this outbreak. In spite of recent supposedly authentic statements to the contrary, malaria is very far from having been banished from our own country, much less from the world in general. For approximately 70 years the trend in the United States has been downward, with some fluctuations. During the summer of 1934, there was a very sharp rise with reinvasions of portions of territory formerly malarious but which were believed to have been cleaned up. In these areas an increase of virulence was noticed following the rule of most contagious diseases when invading new territory. In 1934 the rate reached a higher stage than at any time during the last 20 years and appeared in 3 states which have been at the northern limits of epidemic malaria, and in one which has been outside of the malaria district for 10 years. Indeed, in one instance an outbreak occurred in a northern state where malaria had never been reported before. It is for these reasons that the work of the CWA in ditching and drainage have been of such value to the country."

The purpose is to focus attention upon our most precious national asset—our children. The tie between the child and all adult life is at once the strongest and the gentlest element in human nature. Greater sacrifices are made for children than for ourselves; greater happiness is derived from these sacrifices than from all the triumphs that personal success can bring. Our daily labors, whether in the home, or in the outside world of competition for material things, or even in the search for culture and for spiritual advancement, derive largely from the conscious or unconscious impulse to cherish the child and to hold the child's affection and respect.—Herbert Hoover.

The world is a looking glass, and gives back to every man the reflection of his own face. Frown at it and it in turn will look sourly upon you; laugh at it and with it, and it is a jolly, kind companion.—William Makepeace Thackeray.

ACTIVITIES IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

The health officer of Santa Barbara County, Dr. R. C. Main, has listed the following improvements or unusual accomplishments that have been made by his department during the past year. They are listed as follows:

1. Immunization by the County Health Department of the ten-thousandth child against diphtheria, a goal which was adopted for 1934 two years previously.

2. A county-wide farm sanitary survey under CWA auspices with reference to water supplies and sewage disposal, for the primary purpose of throwing possible light upon typhoid fever in California.

3. The establishment of a general county clinic in Santa Barbara. After many years of education and campaigning, a governmental body has assumed responsibility for adequate clinical service, relieving private agencies which had become bankrupt under the unusual load. The county has almost completed a new building to house its clinic.

4. A county-wide defensive response to the threat of poliomyelitis; spontaneous offers of money; generous donations of blood for therapeutic purposes.

5. A study of the epidemiology of Bang's Disease (with the assistance of the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research) and the beginning of an active campaign for the eradication of this disease from dairy herds throughout the county.

6. Adoption of a new milk ordinance in the city of Santa Barbara, which requires the double capping of milk bottles.

7. A survey of the nutritional state of the children of Santa Maria, made by the county health department.

8. The erection of new school buildings at Santa Ynez and Carpinteria, to replace others of insanitary type.

9. A study of the incidence of venereal diseases in Citizens' Conservation Corps Camps in the county.

10. A rat extermination campaign participated in by the city and county together. Ground-squirrel poisoning in the county is an annual affair.

11. Introduction of the routine testing of school children in the county schools for color perception (Ishihara test).

12. Unusual activity in teaching of first aid and life saving by the local chapter of the American Red Cross, as set forth in the annual report of the Director of the courses.

13. The extension of the main sewer line in Carpinteria, an incorporated Sanitary District, so as to serve an area greatly in need of improved sanitation.

14. The development of a community medical

service under the auspices of the County Medical Association to meet the requirements of the part-pay class. Unfortunately, this service has been suspended recently.

15. Introduction of a "health-coordinating" plan in the Santa Maria High School and Junior College, under the direction of a Columbia graduate in Health Education.

MORTALITY IN JANUARY

The number of deaths from all causes in California increased considerably in January of 1935. There were 6867 deaths registered, 6542 of which were in members of the white race and 325 among colored people. Diseases of the circulatory system took 2165 lives and diseases of the heart took 1920 lives. Among other principal causes of death were the following:

Cancer	709
Diseases of the respiratory system with the exception of pneumonia	647
Diseases of the nervous system	604
Pneumonia	647
Nonvenereal diseases of the genito-urinary system	554
Nephritis	470
Cerebral hemorrhage, apoplexy	459
Tuberculosis—all forms	369
Diseases of the digestive system	439
Diarrhea and enteritis (under 2 years)	28
The puerperal state	29

Among epidemic diseases, the following numbers of deaths were recorded:

Influenza	77
Diphtheria	14
Scarlet fever	11
Typhoid and paratyphoid fever	9
Acute poliomyelitis	4
Epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis	7
Whooping cough	2
Measles	1
Lethargic encephalitis	1

Every man will have his own criterion in forming his judgment of others. I depend very much on the effect of affliction. I consider how a man comes out of the furnace; gold will lie for a month in the furnace without losing a grain.—Richard Cecil.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending May 11, 1935.

Chickenpox

919 cases: Alameda County 6, Alameda 18, Berkeley 50, Hayward 1, Oakland 90, Piedmont 4, Amador County 1, Chico 2, Contra Costa County 1, Pittsburg 9, Richmond 1, Fresno County 6, Fresno 9, Arcata 3, Eureka 3, Bishop 2, Kern County 22, Bakersfield 1, Taft 2, Kings County 3, Hanford 9, Lemoore 1, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 50, Alhambra 2, Arcadia 3, Beverly Hills 14, Burbank 1, Claremont 3, Compton 6, Culver City 1, El Segundo 1, Glendale 10, Huntington Park 3, Inglewood 1, La Verne 2, Long Beach 9, Los Angeles 120, Manhattan 2, Pasadena 10, Pomona 6, San Fernando 1, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 4, Sierra Madre 1, South Pasadena 1, Whittier 5, Lynwood 2, South Gate 7, Monterey Park 7, Maywood 1, Bell 2, Madera 4, Merced County 1, Monterey County 1, King City 2, Monterey 3, Salinas 2, Orange County 6, Brea 6, Huntington Beach 10, Newport Beach 1, Orange 1, Santa Ana

18, La Habra 3, Laguna Beach 2, Riverside County 9, Riverside 6, Sacramento 16, San Bernardino County 3, Colton 6, Ontario 1, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 5, Coronado 2, National City 4, San Diego 77, San Francisco 117, Lodi 1, Stockton 13, San Luis Obispo County 2, San Mateo County 1, Burlingame 2, Daly City 2, Redwood City 1, San Mateo 1, San Carlos 1, Santa Barbara County 3, Santa Barbara 4, Santa Maria 4, San Clara County 11, Palo Alto 10, San Jose 7, Santa Clara 1, Sunnyvale 7, Santa Cruz County 4, Santa Cruz 2, Watsonville 3, Vacaville 1, Healdsburg 1, Santa Rosa 1, Sutter County 1, Yuba City 1, Ventura County 1, Fillmore 1, Yuba County 2.

Diphtheria

42 cases: Fresno County 1, Fresno 1, Kings County 1, Los Angeles 10, Redondo 1, Torrance 3, Napa County 1, Orange County 1, San Bernardino County 3, San Diego County 2, National City 2, San Diego 1, San Luis Obispo County 6, Arroyo Grande 2, Santa Barbara 1, San Jose 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Yreka 1, Santa Rosa 1, Modesto 1, Santa Paula 1.

German Measles

856 cases: Alameda 1, Berkeley 9, Oakland 44, Piedmont 2, Contra Costa County 23, Fresno County 58, Fresno 4, Reedley 1, Inyo County 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 60, Alhambra 2, Arcadia 1, Burbank 1, Claremont 1, Compton 2, El Monte 3, El Segundo 1, Glendale 3, Huntington Park 6, Inglewood 7, Long Beach 13, Los Angeles 102, Manhattan 2, Pasadena 16, San Fernando 1, San Gabriel 1, Sierra Madre 1, Whittier 13, Torrance 1, Hawthorne 4, South Gate 4, Monterey Park 3, Bell 4, Marin County 1, Ross 1, San Rafael 5, Merced County 1, Los Banos 1, Salinas 1, Orange County 19, Anaheim 1, Brea 1, Fullerton 1, Orange 1, Santa Ana, 19, La Habra 2, Laguna Beach 2, Tustin 2, Plumas County 3, Riverside County 1, Riverside 5, Sacramento 21, San Bernardino County 1, Colton 3, Ontario 2, San Diego County 10, Chula Vista 2, National City 1, Oceanside 1, San Diego 41, San Francisco 115, San Joaquin County 4, Lodi 4, Stockton 6, Paso Robles 2, San Luis Obispo 1, Burlingame 3, Daly City 2, San Mateo 3, Menlo Park 1, Santa Barbara County 2, Lompoc 2, Santa Clara County 24, Gilroy 4, Los Gatos 1, Mountain View 1, Palo Alto 5, San Jose 90, Sunnyvale 4, Siskiyou County 1, Trinity County 2, Ventura County 23, Yolo County 5, Woodland 6.

Influenza

28 cases: Lake County 4, Los Angeles County 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 18, Santa Ana 1, Tustin 1, Riverside 1.

Measles

1790 cases: Alameda County 26, Berkeley 54, Livermore 8, Oakland 44, Piedmont 4, Amador County 1, Butte County 2, Chico 2, Gridley 1, Calaveras County 8, Colusa County 1, Colusa 1, Contra Costa County 14, Concord 14, Pittsburg 10, Crescent City 2, Fresno County 41, Fresno 70, Humboldt County 6, Eureka 14, Imperial County 10, Brawley 2, Kern County 138, Bakersfield 3, Kings County 11, Lamoore 25, Los Angeles County 19, Alhambra 1, Beverly Hills 5, Burbank 7, Compton 1, Glendale 7, Hermosa 1, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 111, Los Angeles 89, Manhattan 1, Monrovia 2, Montebello 5, Pasadena 21, Redondo 2, Santa Monica 2, South Pasadena 1, Whittier 1, Torrance 4, Lynwood 4, Madera County 11, Madera 2, Chowchilla 2, Ross 1, Merced County 12, Gustine 5, Los Banos 3, Monterey County 6, Monterey 2, Salinas 3, Napa County 1, Orange County 18, Anaheim 21, Brea 11, Fullerton 29, Huntington Beach 1, Newport Beach 3, Santa Ana 71, Seal Beach 1, La Habra 15, Riverside County 3, Beaumont 18, Riverside 8, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 277, Isleton 3, San Bernardino County 1, Colton 2, Ontario 2, San Bernardino 3, San Diego County 1, National City 1, San Diego 3, San Francisco 49, San Joaquin County 46, Lodi 35, Manteca 3, Stockton 14, Tracy 4, San Luis Obispo County 17, Arroyo Grande 1, Paso Robles 6, Burlingame 2, Santa Barbara County 6, Lompoc 8, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Maria 9, Santa Clara County 29, Gilroy 4, Mountain View 1, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 82, Santa Clara 2, Santa Cruz County 17, Santa Cruz 3, Watsonville 20, Siskiyou County 7, Yerka 4, Santa Rosa 4, Stanislaus County 7, Newman 1, Oakdale 3, Riverbank 4, Trinity County 9, Tulare County 12, Lindsay 14, Porterville 4, Tuolumne County 2, Ventura County 1, Santa Paula 1, Yolo County 12, Woodland 5.

Mumps

387 cases: Alameda County 9, Alameda 5, Berkeley 6, Hayward 2, Oakland 90, Contra Costa County 3, Fresno 1, Kern County 20, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 5, Burbank 9, Glendale 3, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 9, Monrovia 1, San Rafael 2, Ukiah 38, Merced County 11, Orange County 3, Anaheim 1, Brea 1, Placentia 1, Plumas County 3, Riverside County 2, Beaumont 3, Sacramento 21, San Diego 1, San Francisco 12, San Joaquin County 20, Lodi 6, Stockton 16, San Luis Obispo County 2, Arroyo Grande 2, San Luis Obispo 9, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Maria 3, Santa Clara County 9, Gilroy 10, San Jose 7, Santa Cruz County 1, Santa Rosa 1, Stanislaus County 1, Tulare County 13, Lindsay 8, Yolo County 12.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

39 cases: Fresno County 1, Fresno 1, Los Angeles County 4, Glendale 2, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 14, Monterey County 1, Orange County 1, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 1, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 6, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Luis Obispo 1.

Scarlet Fever

237 cases: Alameda County 1, Oakland 11, Piedmont 3, Butte

County 1, Chico 1, Contra Costa County 4, Walnut Creek 1, Fresno County 3, Fresno 3, Eureka 1, Imperial County 1, Brawley 1, El Centro 1, Kern County 6, Bakersfield 2, Kings County 3, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 17, Burbank 2, Glendale 2, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 6, Los Angeles 50, Manhattan 1, Pasadena 4, San Fernando 1, South Pasadena 1, Whittier 1, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 1, Merced County 3, Los Banos 2, Monterey County 2, Salinas 1, Fullerton 2, Orange County 1, Santa Ana 2, Tustin 1, Riverside County 2, Sacramento 11, San Benito County 2, San Bernardino County 3, Colton 1, Ontario 2, San Diego County 2, National City 2, San Diego 17, San Francisco 21, San Joaquin County 2, Tracey 2, San Mateo 1, South San Francisco 1, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 1, Santa Cruz County 3, Vacaville 1, Vallejo 1, Healdsburg 1, Santa Rosa 1, Modesto 1, Sutter County 1, Tulare County 1, Ventura County 1, Oxnard 2, Santa Paula 1, Yolo County 5, Woodland 1.

Smallpox

19 cases: Chico 1, Los Angeles 7, Sacramento 3, Santa Clara County 4, Watsonville 3, California 1.*

Typhoid Fever

9 cases: Imperial County 4, Inyo County 1, San Francisco 2, Tracy 1, Burlingame 1.

Whooping Cough

218 cases: Alameda County 3, Berkeley 6, Hayward 2, Oakland 3, Piedmont 4, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 2, Reedley 1, Imperial County 2, Los Angeles County 17, Alhambra 7, Glendale 4, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 16, Redondo 2, Santa Monica 3, Torrance 1, San Rafael 1, Salinas 2, Huntington Beach 2, Newport Beach 1, Santa Ana 6, Tustin 2, San Bernardino County 1, Colton 1, San Diego County 8, National City 19, San Diego 20, San Francisco 28, San Joaquin County 5, Stockton 1, Tracy 1, San Luis Obispo 1, Santa Barbara 9, Santa Clara County 12, Gilroy 1, Mountain View 1, Palo Alto 6, San Jose 1, Sunnyvale 1, Willow Glen 1, Tulare County 4, Ventura County 8.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

5 cases: Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 2, San Francisco 1, Oxnard 1.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

6 cases: Los Angeles 1, Ontario 1, San Bernardino 2, San Francisco 1, Santa Barbara 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

One case: Los Angeles.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

One case: Los Angeles County.

Pellagra

3 cases: Alameda 1, Brawley 1, Tulare County 1.

Poliomyelitis

7 cases: Berkeley 1, Los Angeles 4, Pasadena 1, Yolo County 1.

Tetanus

One case: San Bernardino County.

Trachoma

5 cases: Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 1, Fort Bidwell 2, Santa Ana 1.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

One case: Los Angeles County.

Food Poisoning

8 cases: Riverside County 2, San Francisco 6.

Undulant Fever

3 cases: Huntington Park 2, Anaheim 1.

Trichinosis

One case: San Jose.

Septic Sore Throat (Epidemic)

5 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Glendale 1, Redwood City 2, Yolo County 1.

Rabies (Animal)

34 cases: Los Angeles County 3, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 10, La Mesa 2, San Diego 14, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 2.

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.